



the gull

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Mountain Lion Rehabilitation

The October general meeting will be held in San Francisco Zoo's Shoong Auditorium on Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. This program will feature Mark Ferrari, a wildlife biologist and colleague of Gary Bogue. You will remember that Gary spoke at our February meeting on his work rehabilitating Bald Eagles. Mark will also discuss wildlife rehabilitation — that of the mountain lion. He and his co-workers have already succeeded in returning one cougar to the wilds.

Mountain lion behavior and the problems and experiences associated with this work will be discussed. Unfortunately, Mark's cougars will not attend the meeting but the showing of an excellent film produced by Mark will compensate for their absence.

The San Francisco Zoo is at the end of Sloat Blvd., near the ocean.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, October 7 — Golden Gate National Recreation Area for migrating hawks and other fall birds. Coming from San Francisco on U.S. 101 take the Alexander Ave. exit just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Drive about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile toward Sausalito. Turn left at the GGNRA sign and meet at the parking lot at the east entrance of the tunnel at **8:30 a.m.** Lunch optional. Leader: Donna Dittman (468-2688). (✓)

Wednesday, October 11 — Mini trip to the **Bay Bridge toll plaza** to look for shore birds, terns and gulls. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the Holiday Inn parking lot just west of the Powell St./Emeryville exit off the Eastshore Freeway (I S 80). Rain cancels the trip. Leader: Ted Dement. Any questions call Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Sunday, October 15 — **Annadel State Park**. Take Hwy. 101 north to Santa Rosa. Turn off at Hwy. 12 exit and follow Hwy. 12 east for about 4-5 miles. Turn right on Los Alamos Road and follow signs to Annadel Park. Meet in parking area at the end of the park road (as far as you can go) at **9 a.m.** Leader: Gene Hull (525-6898). (✓)

Saturday, October 21 — **Bodega Bay** for shore birds, ducks and a variety of other wintering waterfowl. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the upper parking lot of the Tides Restaurant in the town of Bodega Bay. Take Hwy. 101 to the Petaluma-Bodega Bay exit if coming from San Francisco. Driving time about 2 hours. An alternate route is Hwy. 1 along the coast. Driving time about 2 ½ hours. Bring lunch. We are fortunate to have Betty Burrige as leader because she is so familiar with the area and all its wildlife. For information call Betty Short (921-3020 during work hours). (✓)

Saturday, October 28 — **Bay Bridge toll plaza** for terns, gulls and shore birds. Directions same as Oct. 11 trip. Meet at **9 a.m.** Lunch optional. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

Saturday, November 4 — **Birding by ear for winter visitors**. Want to learn how to tell a thrush from a sparrow by call note? Or a willet from a curlew? Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the large (dirt) parking lot, Bear Valley trailhead, Pt. Reyes National Seashore (½ mile west of Olema). After a short walk along Inverness Ridge we will explore the trails to the north and east of Limantour and Drake's Estero. Bring lunch to carry, sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk 7-8 miles. Leader: Marie Mans (284-7681). (✓)

Carpooling: The trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling can be arranged. If you need a ride or can offer one, call Kate Partridge at 642-5784 (work: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Passengers should be willing to share any expenses incident to the trip.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

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Late July and August Observations

As I take possession of "the ink" I promise my best effort to uphold Don's laudable standards for this column. Policies will remain essentially unchanged. Notably, I reaffirm Don's boundaries: roughly Point Arena, Sacramento and Gray Lodge refuges, the edge of the Sierra foothills, Los Banos and the Monterey area, plus adjacent marine waters. Slight stretching may be allowed to include interesting birds from, say, Panoche Valley. Conversely, readers should expect a drier prose style and headings will henceforth rhyme only by accident.

THE SEASON: PREDICTABLE, WITH MYSTERIES

Late summer is predictably a time with a few exciting rarities, as often as not shorebirds, plus many transient waterbirds of more regular occurrence. Among the landbirds there is always a scattering of eastern vagrants. Despite this predictability there remain elements of mystery. How are we to classify the late summer vagrants whose presence we expect? Are they early fall arrivals, summering birds undetected earlier, or even exceptionally late spring vagrants, recently arrived? My guess is that all three origins are involved, but I would only speculate about individuals where precedent has hinted a pattern.

Many of the mysteries of avian distribution phenology are due to the fact that arrival dates and discovery dates may be quite different. Birds lurk in large patches of habitat (Tilden Park woods, San Francisco Bay, etc.) for some time before being detected. Even at tiny coastal or desert vagrant traps birds may move from one to another, thus appearing to be multiple individuals or escaping notice entirely despite frequent observation. Moreover, most birders bird primarily on weekends. The same problems apply to departure and last-detection dates. Specific examples are noted below.

SHOREBIRDS

August is prime time for Baird's Sandpipers and they were reported from expected localities beginning Aug. 5: at and near Bodega Bay (BDP, JP, JR), Bolinas Sewage Ponds (maximum of 7—TB), Ano Nuevo Point (JM), Pillar Point, San Mateo County (BH, GP), and Nicasio Reservoir (BP), plus one on the Farallones Aug. 12-17 (PRBO). Fewer than usual Lesser Yellowlegs were found: Aug. 17-29, at Pescadero Marsh (JM), Bolinas Sewage Ponds (TB) and Doran Park, Bodega Bay (maximum of 4—JM, DE). Notwithstanding that the time and place were typical, the Semipalmated Sandpiper at Doran Park, Bodega Bay, on Aug. 5 was an excellent find (BDP, JP).

At least a dozen **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at four sites (two outside our area) were the hottest California shorebirds. One was watched at

Doran Park State Beach, Bodega Bay (RAH, DAH), five were found on the grassy ridgetop of Tomales Point (TBI, LL), and the remaining one was at Arcata, Humboldt County (RLeV). All were discovered Aug. 26! One in Riverside was found Aug. 27 (*fide* GA). Six more at different places along the Oregon coast were spotted about the same time. Such synchrony suggests common or related origin, but one must note that Aug. 26 was a Saturday; these birds may have arrived several days earlier, and/or asynchronously. The Doran Park individual stayed until Aug. 28 (BDP, mob). The Tomales Point flock contained eleven Buffys on Aug. 31 (JM). Whether this increase represented immigration, perhaps including any of the individuals seen to the north, or merely detection of only part of the flock on Aug. 26 is another question.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

Two Red-necked Grebes at Drakes Beach Aug. 27 (SL, DD) follow observations of this species there in previous Augusts. Perhaps the few nonbreeders that summer on our coast seek such semi-protected waters for this period of molt.

The waters ten miles north of the Farallones produced a Northern Fulmar and three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels on July 23 (CB) and a Black-legged Kittiwake was on the beach at Sharp Park Golf Course, Pacifica, Aug. 3 (JM, NC). These three pelagic species are notoriously erratic in occurrence. By contrast, Harlequin Ducks remain constant to Ano Nuevo State Reserve, with two there Aug. 17 (JM).

Two (not just one) adult Little Blue Herons have been at Palo Alto Baylands from April 24 through at least early August (CH, mob). One stayed at least through Aug. 24 (JL). Cattle Egrets now nest as close as the Mendota Wildlife Management Area (13 birds, 5 nests - KH). Which of these two herons will first be proven to nest around the Bay?

A **Black Skimmer** helping to defend a tern colony at Alvarado, Alameda County, July 20 (DE) was quite likely the same individual responsible for the previous south Bay sighting this summer. Least Terns are not currently known to nest near Palo Alto. Nevertheless, their presence at Palo Alto Baylands in numbers up to 18 on Aug. 12 (JM) poses the question of local breeding vs. post-breeding dispersal from colonies in the Alameda area.

Southbound Common Terns and northbound Elegant Terns were found at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza and Princeton Harbor Aug. 3 (JM). The 300 Elegants at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 20 (TB) represent the annual increase at this season.

LANDBIRDS

In addition to the breeding birds at Ano Nuevo, six Black Swifts were reported from Martin's Beach, San Mateo County, Aug. 6 (DS).

The **Worm-eating Warbler** remained in the large thicket south of Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, at least through Aug. 6 (RS). Its true arrival and departure dates are of course unknown. Experience suggests that it was present many days before Phil Gordon detected it July 11; certainly it was difficult to see when its presence was known, as most of its seekers will attest. The search for the Worm-eating Warbler turned up a Black-and-White Warbler in the same area Aug. 6 (MW). Another summering bird, the Palace of Fine Arts' **Great-tailed Grackle**, was re-discovered at San Francisco's Aquatic Park Aug. 23-24 (MK). The local bird feeders stated that it had been there intermittently for a few months. A search for this bird on Aug. 25 yielded a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak there (JM). An American Redstart was found at the north end of Lake Merced, San Francisco, on Aug. 12 (DD). Another American Redstart, this one an adult male, was present around the Pioneer Log Cabin, Golden Gate Park, Aug. 17-22, and it was accompanied by an early Blackpoll Warbler on Aug. 22 (DEd).

As my final example of a bird difficult to classify, would anyone care to specify the origin of the Lapland Longspur on the Farallones July 20-27 (PRBO)?

Observers: Garth Alton, Courtney Beuchert, Tupper Blake (TBl), Tony Briggs, Nancy Conzett, Donna Dittman, David Edwards (DEd), Dick Erickson, Keith Hanson, Bob Hirt, David A. Holway, Richard A. Holway, Calvin Hom, Michael Kelly, Jeri Langham, Ron LeValley, Les Line, Susanne Luther, Joe Morlan, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, George Peyton, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Bill Pursell, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoldt, Rich Stallcup, Mike Wihler.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720 (548-9507)

Correction of copy in last month's Observations column: the last four lines of the third paragraph on page 88 should read, ". . . A&WG), a Red-eyed Vireo at Bodega Bay July 4 (BDP) and a Black-and-White Warbler at Bolinas July 9 (PRBO). The Farallones added Cape May Warblers June 17 and 19, a Blackpoll Warbler June 18-20, a Magnolia and a Palm Warbler June 22 and a Vesper Sparrow June 23."

GGAS Patches

Cloth patches depicting the GGAS logo are available through the GGAS office for \$1.50. These handsome patches are blue, black and white on washable material ready for you to sew on your jacket, knapsack or that hole in your favorite blue jeans. Let all those birds out there know you're a GGAS member — they'll come flocking!

Birding Bolinas Lagoon

With its rolling hills, wooded canyons, and quiet waters, Bolinas Lagoon provides exceptional — and highly scenic — birding at any time of the year. To reach the lagoon, follow the signs for Hwy. 1 from Hwy. 101-North and continue through Stinson Beach to the lagoon. This lagoon is censused regularly by the staff at Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), the only bird observatory in the west, and is perhaps the “most-watched” body of water in California because of the high density of birdwatchers who live near the lagoon or visit it. Fall and winter are particularly exciting, when water birds occur in large numbers and varieties. A good place to observe shorebirds is along the south spit (known as Seadrift). Such rarities as Curlew Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit have been recorded here (once each) in early September, and each fall hope springs eternal among Bay Area birders that another Siberian shorebird will show up.

To reach the area, turn left at the north end of the town of Stinson Beach at a small wooden sign labeled “Sea Drift” (it’s rather inconspicuous, so keep a sharp lookout). Drive to the end of this road and park in the parking lot on your right. Walk through the gate and turn right. It is best to stroll along the edge of the bank on the lagoon side just as the tide is receding, when the shorebirds will be busy feeding close to shore. The walk out the entire spit is about 1½ miles. During high tide several thousand shorebirds, gulls and terns rest on Kent Island in the SW corner of the lagoon.

As you proceed north on Hwy. 1 along the east side of the lagoon look for Belted Kingfishers on the telephone wires. There are turnouts along the road which afford views of herons and egrets, loons (3 species), grebes (look for an occasional Red-necked), shorebirds and diving and dabbling ducks (1 or more Barrow’s Goldeneyes can sometimes be spotted in winter if you search the lagoon thoroughly with a scope). Near the NE corner of the lagoon you will see Audubon Canyon Ranch on your right. This is open to the public on weekends, Feb.-July 1 for viewing Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons on their nests in the tops of the redwood trees.

Orange-crowned Warblers and Purple Finches sing along the walk up to the lookout — from which you can study the heronry with scopes provided by the Audubon Society — an experience you are certain never to forget. May is an excellent time to visit in order to view the young of both species, but you may wish to return several times to observe the various stages of the birds’ breeding and nesting cycles. From the lookout watch for an occasional Osprey or Red-shouldered Hawk.

At the NE corner of the lagoon turn left at the first road, which will take you to the town of Bolinas; then drive along the western edge of the lagoon. Park your car just before the only sharp curve in the road, recognized by a line of trees going to a point in the lagoon along Pine Gulch Creek. Check the tall silver snag on the west side of the road, a favorite perch of the Peregrine and a Merlin. Both falcons regularly winter at the lagoon. Because of the high density of dabbling ducks off Pine Gulch Creek, this is a favorite hunting and resting area of the Peregrine, but one should be on the lookout for both falcons anywhere on the lagoon.

American Wigeon comonly graze in the field just north of the creek and among them one or more European Wigeon can usually be found. If the wigeon are not in the field, walk out to the spit along the creek and look among the ducks, which are generally close to shore. Both European Wigeon and Common Teal can usually be found here in winter. On the south side of the creek is a small patch of salt marsh. During the past two winters as many as 2 sharp-tailed Sparrows have inhabited this patch of vegetation, though the birds are seen only at high tide. In order to spot them, sit or stand quietly by the boards at the water's edge, watching for the bright orange face and two white wing bars across the shoulder as the sparrows (and the Long-billed Marsh Wrens) flit about. Be careful not to disturb the marsh as the habitat is fragile and easily destroyed.

For a chance to observe birds in the hand and to learn something about bird banding you may wish to visit the PRBO banding station on Mesa Rd. Continue south towards Bolinas and go north on Mesa Rd. about 5 miles; the bird observatory will be on your left. Generally bird banding is done in the early hours of the morning until 10 a.m., except on stormy days. Many rarities have been netted here as well as our common species.

—SUSANNE LUTHER

reprinted from *Western Tanager*

Vol. 44, No. 10, August 1978.

Conservation Notes

EMERYVILLE CRESCENT ASSESSMENT. A new environmental impact study on the proposed Emeryville Crescent bike trail has determined that making the marsh a wildlife preserve and rerouting the trail is the most desirable alternative.

According to the report, "Sixty species of waterbirds and shorebirds are of regular occurrence in the Emeryville Crescent. The area has the greatest species diversity of shorebirds of any place away from the

immediate open coast in the State of California . . . It has high value to wildlife — it provides seasonal habitat for large populations of shorebirds, gulls and terns and provides breeding habitat for the endangered California clapper rail.”

After addressing in detail all aspects of the issue and weighing the alternatives, the report concludes that the construction of the trail, as now proposed by the East Bay Regional Parks District, would cause irreparable harm to the marsh and directly result in the decline of its abundant birdlife.

The just-published report was researched and written by biologists from the Bodega Bay Institute of Environmental Education, a non-profit organization engaged in teaching and environmental consultation. Copies are available at the GGAS office.

EBRPD TO LOG PARKS? Another idea that some East Bay park planners are currently proposing is logging trees for commercial purposes in Redwood Regional Park.

The proposal is to convert gradually an existing eucalyptus forest to a “working forest” (i.e., a forest managed for timber production), probably of redwoods. Redwoods have the advantage of being a highly marketable native species and are not susceptible to massive frost kills and such.

The area being considered is 120 acres in northern Redwood Park, where about three acres a year, it is proposed, would be clear-cut. Ultimately, redwood trees would be grown for sale on a 40-year rotation. EBRPD, having neither money nor equipment to do this, would seek funding and services from the timber industry.

The profits from the operation would of course go to East Bay Parks and help somewhat to make up the budget cut caused by Jarvis-Gann. Comments and inquiries may be addressed to John Nicoles of EBRPD.

BAY AREA GREENBELT. A regional greenbelt is an officially-established, permanent open-space preserve surrounding and supporting the cities in a metropolitan area. Today the communities of the Bay Area are surrounded by a great natural greenbelt enabling us to maintain a healthy balance between the man-made environment and natural environments. But bit by bit the greenbelt is gradually being eaten into and disappearing.

Preserving a regional greenbelt — especially agricultural land — around the Bay Area is the goal of People for Open Space. They are trying to organize citizen efforts for establishing a permanent greenbelt for the entire Bay Area and they deserve support. They're at 46 Kearny St., S.F. 94108.

GREENPEACE SKATING WALKATHON. The 1978 Greenpeace skating walkathon will take place between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Polo Fields at Golden Gate Park on Sunday, October 15. Each walker or skater is sponsored by a person or group which pledges so much money per mile (minimum: 25¢ a mile). Participants get fun and exercise and demonstrate their concern for the whales; the money goes to a worthwhile cause. Packets and registration info at (415) 441-3993.

PRBO BIRDATHON. And while we're plugging worthy fund-raisers: Point Reyes Bird Observatory invites everyone to its first annual birdathon on Sunday, October 7. A birdathon is like a skating walkathon except that contributions of sponsors are determined by the number of bird species observed instead of distance traveled. Birders are encouraged to bird anywhere in California and contributions are tax deductible. An informal gathering of birdathon participants and sponsors begins at 6 p.m. October 7 at Galloway Canyon on Bolinas Lagoon four miles north of Stinson Beach at 4990 Shoreline Highway. PRBO for more details: (415) 868-1221.

GG PARK MASTER PLAN. The San Francisco Park and Recreation Department has released a summary of 1,660 public comments received in response to the question: "What would you like to add, maintain, increase, decrease and/or remove in Golden Gate Park?" The comments will somehow provide a basis for a statement of objectives and policies for the Park "and the necessary guidance for the development of the Master Plan." Public sessions will then again take place and public response will be solicited. We hope at that time to convey our feelings on the Golden Gate Park Master Plan to the department and we invite all interested Audubon members to participate with us in the public meetings. Watch this column for details.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Oakland Christmas Count

This year's GGAS-sponsored Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 17. Please set aside the day and start preparing for another great count.

We welcome all newcomers as well as the continued support of past participants. Last year's team leaders should notify Malcolm Sproul (at 841-3086 between 7 and 10 p.m.) as to their availability and count area preferences.

Next month's *Gull* will contain complete details on the count.

Marin County Christmas Bird Count

The Marin County (Southern) Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Marin Audubon Society and the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, is scheduled for Saturday, December 30, 1978. For information on the count please contact Phil Schaeffer at 388-2524.

Marine Mammal Trips

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor boat trips to view marine mammals seen along the coast. Past trips have had excellent views of the gray whale, dall porpoise, white-sided dolphin, harbor porpoise, California sea lion, sea otter, harbor seal, as well as other species.

Trips are scheduled for January 7th and 14th and will leave from Monterey harbor. The fare will be \$15.00 per person. Reservations can be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope and check payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. Details on where and when to meet will be sent with acknowledgement.

New Books Received by GGAS

A Guide to Bird Watching in Washington, by Terence R. Wahl and Dennis R. Paulson. Second revised edition, 1974, Whatcom Museum Press, Bellingham, Washington.

Of All Things Most Yielding, edited by David R. Brower, with Lappe and McCurdy. Published by Friends of the Earth, San Francisco, CA.

Shorebirds of North America, edited by Gardner D. Stout, with Robert V. Clem, Peter Matthiesson and Ralph S. Palmer. Second edition, 1968, Viking Press, New York.

Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known, by Gerry Bennett. 1977, Webcom Limited, Canada.

Birds of the World: A Checklist, by James F. Clements, Second edition, The Two Continents Publishing Group, L.T.D., 1978.

The Bluebird, by Lawrence Zeleny, Indiana University Press, 1976. (See book review next page.)

The Complete Outdoorsman's Guide to Birds of Eastern No. America, by John P.S. MacKenzie, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1977.

Wild Birds of the Americas, by Terence Michael Shortt. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1977.

LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

The Bluebird was published by the Audubon Naturalist Society for the Central Atlantic States. Although the Eastern Bluebird is not indigenous to our area, this book is a must for conservationists. Well written and well illustrated, it covers conservation measures which can be taken to help save the Eastern Bluebird, a threatened species.

Birding Sonoma County

Birds of Sonoma County by Gordon L. Bolander and Benjamin D. Parmeter is now available. The 90-page book contains species notes and bar graphs, a list of rarities with observers and a section on where to bird in the county. The cost is \$4 (California residents add 24¢ sales tax and 50¢ postage and handling). Order from Benjamin D. Parmeter, 2500 Emerson, Napa, CA 94558.

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Cooper Society Meeting in Berkeley

The Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society will hold its first fall meeting on Thursday, October 12, 1978, at 8:00 p.m. in room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California at Berkeley. The featured speaker will be David G. Ainley, Research Director of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, on "Bird Communities of the South Pacific Ocean."

There will be a pre-meeting Dutch treat dinner at 6:30 at La Val's Pizza Gardens, 1834 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley.



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THE GULL

October 1978

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**